

E1-836



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

1 Old State Capitol Plaza • Springfield, Illinois 62701-1507 • Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Montgomery County

PLEASE REFER TO: IHPA LOG #053031504

Various Locations

Two routes (A & B) in Montgomery County

STB

Construction and Operation of a New Rail Line, AEGC

April 13, 2004

Jo Carole Dawkins

Jo Carole Dawkins Environmental Consulting

PO Box 845

63 Pine Street

Springville, AL 35146

Dear Madam:

Thank you for requesting comments from our office concerning the possible effects of the project referenced above on cultural resources. Our comments are required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 USC 470), as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties".

The project area has not been surveyed and may contain prehistoric/historic archaeological resources. Accordingly, a Phase I archaeological reconnaissance survey to locate, identify, and record all archaeological resources within the project area will be required. This decision is based upon our understanding that there has not been any large scale disturbance of the ground surface (excluding agricultural activities) such as major construction activity within the project area which would have destroyed existing cultural resources prior to your project. If the area has been heavily disturbed prior to your project, please contact our office with the appropriate written and/or photographic evidence.

The area(s) that need(s) to be surveyed include(s) all area(s) that will be developed as a result of the issuance of the federal agency permit(s) or the granting of the federal grants, funds, or loan guarantees that have prompted this review.

Enclosed you will find an attachment briefly describing Phase I surveys and a list of archaeological contracting services. THE IHPA LOG NUMBER OR A COPY OF THIS LETTER SHOULD BE PROVIDED TO THE SELECTED PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTRACTOR TO ENSURE THAT THE SURVEY RESULTS ARE CONNECTED TO YOUR PROJECT PAPERWORK.

If you have further questions, please contact Joseph S. Phillippe, Staff Archaeologist at 217/785-1279.

Sincerely,

Anne E. Haaker

Anne E. Haaker

Deputy State Historic

Preservation Officer

AEH

Enclosure

cc:



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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Teletypewriter Only (217) 524-7128

Enclosure

PROTECTING ILLINOIS' CULTURAL RESOURCES An Introduction to Archaeological Surveys

Prepared by
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

When you read the accompanying letter, you were notified that your Federal or State permitted, funded, or licensed project will require an archaeological survey. We also review projects that use public land. The purpose of this survey will be to determine if prehistoric or historic resources are present within the project area. If you are the average applicant you have had little or no experience with such surveys - this short introduction is designed to help you fulfill the Federal/State requirements and complete the process.

WHY PROTECT HISTORIC RESOURCES? Historic preservation legislation grew out of the public concern for the rapid loss of our prehistoric and historic heritage in the wake of increasingly large-scale Federal/State and private development. The legislation is an attempt to protect our heritage while at the same time allowing economic development to go forward.

WHAT IS THE LEGAL BASIS? The basis for all subsequent historic preservation legislation lies within the national Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). Section 106 of NHPA requires all Federal Agencies "undertakings" to "take into account" their effect on historic properties. As of January 1, 1990, the State Agency Historic Resources Preservation Act (Public Act 86-707) requires the same for all private or public undertakings involving state agencies. An "undertaking" is defined to cover a wide range of Federal or State permitting, funding, and licensing activities. It is the responsibility of Federal/State Agencies to ensure the protection of historic resources and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regulates this effort. In Illinois the SHPO is part of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA).

WHAT IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY? An archaeological survey includes both (1) an examination of the written records, such as county plat books, published and unpublished archaeological reports, state site files, and (2) a field investigation of the project area to determine if prehistoric or historic resources are present. This process of resource identification is called a Phase I survey.

WHAT DOES A PHASE I SURVEY REQUIRE? Archaeological evidence is normally buried beneath the surface of the ground. To determine if an archaeological site is present it is necessary to get below this surface. The most efficient way is by plowing. If the project area is or can be plowed then the artifactual evidence will be brought to the surface and systematic pedestrian surveys (walkovers) will determine if a site is present. These walkovers are best done when the vegetation is low in the fall or spring. If the project area is covered with vegetation then small shovel probes (1' sq.) are excavated on a systematic grid pattern (usually 50' intervals) to sample the subsurface deposits. Where deeply buried sites may be present, such as in floodplains, deep coring or machine trenching may be required.

WHO DOES ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS? Professional archaeologists who meet the Federal standards set forth in the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 FR 44738-9) may conduct Federal surveys, while those meeting the State standards set forth in the Archaeological and Paleontological Resources Protection Act (20 ILCS 3435) may conduct surveys on public land in the State (see the other side of this sheet for information on obtaining the services of a contract archaeologist). The applicant is responsible for obtaining and paying for such services.

AFTER THE SURVEY - WHAT NEXT? When the field investigations are completed the archaeologist will submit a report of their findings and recommendations to the applicant. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT TO FORWARD TWO (2) COPIES TO THE SHPO FOR EVALUATION AND FINDINGS. If no sites were found or the sites found are not eligible for the National Register the project may proceed. Occasionally, a significant archaeological site may be encountered. In such a case the SHPO and the Federal or State Agency will work with the applicant to protect both the cultural resources and to facilitate the completion of your project.

NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE? The IHPA is here to assist you and the Federal/State agencies in complying with the mandates of the historic preservation legislation. If you have questions or need assistance with archaeological resources protection or Federal/State compliance, please contact the Archaeology Section, Preservation Services Division, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, 500 East Madison Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 (217/785-4512).

OVER

03/08/04